

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 08619 280436Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 004933

P 280346Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7666

S E C R E T SEOUL 8619

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR MASS KS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO FRASER AMENDMENT

REF: SEOUL 8588

1. WHILE PRESS HAS COMMENTED CRITICALLY ON FRASER AMENDMENT, SENIOR ROKG OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN NOTABLY MUTED IN PUBLIC COMMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LACK OF PUBLIC COMMENT IS BY DELIBERATE DESIGN OF PRESIDENT PARK; PARK REPORTEDLY WAS ANGERED BY AMENDMENT, BUT IN INTEREST NOT SOURING U.S./ROK RELATIONS, REFRAINED FROM OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT.

2. PRIVATELY, SENIOR ROK OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO, WITH RARE EXCEPTIONS, VOICED FEW DIRECT COMMENTS TO US ON FRASER AMENDMENT. MOST OUTSPOKEN WAS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NAM DUK WOO WHO - COMMENTING ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE - WAS IN DEPRESSED MOOD MOST UNUSUAL FOR HIM AND SAID " WE CANNOT DEPEND UPON THE UNITED STATES." NAM TOLD DIR/AID ADLER PRIVATELY THAT 20 MILLION DOLLAR STORY HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION WHERE "THEY SAID LET THEM KEEP IT ALL." NAM SAID HE COMMENTED AT THIS MEETING THAT "WE CAN'T AFFORD SUCH A POLICY."

3. EMBASSY HAS ALSO TAKEN JUDICIOUS SOUNDING WITH OTHER KEY PEOPLE TO TEST WATERS. MND MINISTER SUH PROFESSED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 08619 280436Z

UNHAPPINESS, COMMENTING THAT ROKG WOULD NOW WAIT TO SEE

HOW PRESIDENT FORD ACTED ON 20 MILLION DOLLARS. BLUE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSISTANT CHOE KYU HA COMMENTED THAT KOREANS ARE VERY SENSITIVE AT BEING TOLD BY FOREIGNERS WHAT TO DO, AND WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PRESSURED BY FRASER AMENDMENT. PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL'S ASSISTANT HAN COMMENTED IN SIMILAR VEIN. NEITHER SPOKE WITH RANCOR.

4. MOST OUTSPOKEN COMMENT CAME FROM NORMALLY FRIENDLY AND SOFT-SPOKEN ASSISTANT MINISTER MND LOGISTICS MAJOR GENERAL PAIK WHO VIEWED FRASER AMENDMENT AS BLOW TO KOREAN PRIDE AND TO BE REJECTED. PAIK, WHO REALIZES THAT KOREA UNLIKELY TO GET EVEN 145 MILLION DOLLARS, ALSO COMMENTED THAT USG HAD TO REALIZE THAT THIS WAS ONLY SMALL AMOUNT OF TOTAL ROKG DEFENSE EXPENDITURE, THAT U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO EXERT EFFECTIVE LEVERAGE ON INTERNAL ROK POLITICAL SITUATION, AND THAT U.S. SHOULD NOT TREAT KOREA AS SMALL CHILD ANY LONGER.

5. COMMENT: OUR INITIAL APPRAISAL OF FRASER AMENDMENT IMPACT IS THAT AT THIS STAGE NEITHER PRESIDENT PARK NOR ANY OF HIS SENIOR ADVISORS LIKELY TO MAKE ANY DOMESTIC CONCESSIONS TO FACILITATE GRANT OF ADDITIONAL 20 MILLION DOLLARS ASSISTANCE. ON CONTRARY, REACTION HAS APPARENTLY BEEN TO ACCELERATE TENDENCY TO DEPEND INCREASINGLY ON DIRECT ROK PROCUREMENT AND TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT BY INCREASED THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASES. TENTATIVE DECISIONS REACHED THIS WEEK FOR PURCHASE OF EXOCET FROM FRENCH AND SUBMARINES FROM BRITISH, AS PARTIAL CONSEQUENCE THIS MOOD, WILL BE REPORTED SEPTELS. SNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL08619
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740376-0595
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974126/aaaaaeui.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 74 SEOUL 8588
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO FRASER AMENDMENT
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, KS, US, (FRASER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005